

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

§ 4.305

fish and wildlife agency must supply the disputing applicant and the Commission with the documentation necessary to support its cost statement. The Director of the Office of Hydro-power Licensing will determine the reasonableness of a disputed fish and wildlife agency cost statement. The Director's decision will be in writing. The Director will notify the disputing applicant and the fish and wildlife agency of the decision by letter. Any decision of the Director may be appealed by either party pursuant to 18 CFR 385.1902. In deciding whether or not a disputed cost statement is reasonable, the Director will review the application, the disputed cost statement and any other documentation relating to the particular environmental problems associated with the disputing applicant's proposed project. The Director will consider such factors as:

- (i) The time the fish and wildlife agency spent reviewing the application;
- (ii) The proportion of the cost statement to the time the fish and wildlife agency spent reviewing the application;
- (iii) Whether the fish and wildlife agency's expenditures conform to Federal expenditure guidelines for such items as travel, per diem, personnel, and contracting; and
- (iv) Whether the studies conducted by the agency, if any, are duplicative, limited to the proposed project area, unnecessary to determine the impacts to or mitigation measures for the particular fish and wildlife resources affected by the proposed project, or otherwise unnecessary to set terms and conditions for the proposed project.

(3) *Unreasonable cost statements.* If the Director determines that a disputed fish and wildlife agency cost statement is unreasonable, the disputing applicant and the fish and wildlife agency will be afforded 45 days from the date of notification to attempt to reach an agreement regarding the reimbursable costs of the agency. If the disputing applicant and the fish and wildlife agency fail to reach an agreement on the disputed cost statement within 45 days from the date of notification, the Director will determine the costs that

the agency should reasonably have incurred.

(f) *Refunds.* (1) If the amount paid by a section 30(c) applicant under § 4.302 exceeds the total amount of the cost statements submitted by fish and wildlife agencies under paragraph (a) of this section, the Commission will notify the Treasury to refund the difference to the applicant within 45 days from the date of the bill issued to the applicant under paragraph (b) of this section.

(2) If the amount paid by a section 30(c) applicant exceeds the amount determined to be reasonable by the Director pursuant to paragraph (d)(2) of this section, the Commission will notify the Treasury to refund the difference to the applicant within 45 days of the resolution of all dispute proceedings.

§ 4.304 Payment.

(a) A payment required under this subpart must be made by check payable to the United States Treasury. The check must indicate that the payment is for *ECPA Fees*.

(b) If a payment required under this subpart is not made within the time period prescribed for making such payment, interest and penalty charges will be assessed. Interest and penalty charges will be computed in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3717 and 4 CFR part 102.

(c) The Commission will not issue a license or exemption, unless the applicant has made full payments of any fees due under § 4.303(c).

§ 4.305 Enforcement.

(a) The Commission may take any appropriate action permitted by law if a section 30(c) applicant does not make a payment required under this subpart. The Commission will not be liable to any fish and wildlife agency for failure to collect any amounts under this subpart.

(b) If the Commission is unable to collect the full amount due by a section 30(c) applicant on behalf of more than one agency, the amount the Commission does collect will be distributed to the agencies on a *pro-rata* basis except if an agency's cost statement is greater than its most recent estimate to the applicant under § 4.301(b), then the difference between the estimate